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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES
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Frequently Asked Questions Fireworks General

1. Question: What types of fireworks are legal in the State of Michigan?

Answer: Effective January 1, 2012, the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, PA 256 of 2011 allows the sale and use of consumer fireworks [Examples of legal fireworks](#).

- a) Consumer fireworks, referred to as 1.4G would include: roman candles, bottle rockets and other items that leave the ground. For reference, please see American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) standard 87.1, 2001 Edition: [APA Standard](#).
- b) Novelty items such as sparklers, snakes, snaps and poppers remain legal for sale and use. Novelty fireworks are not regulated under the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act.
- c) Low Impact Fireworks such as ground sparkling devices, ground based or handheld sparklers also remain legal for sale and use in Michigan. Per PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.456](#) requires a low impact registration be filed with the Bureau of Fire Services. To register for low impact fireworks please see the [fireworks low impact registration](#) link.
- d) Display fireworks, typically referred to as 1.3G, are large and explosive items typically used for public display and are locally permitted for use by professionals. They are not regulated by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

2. Question: Who may not buy or use consumer fireworks?

Answer: According to the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.462](#):

- a) Prohibits the sale of consumer fireworks to a minor (anyone under the age of 18).
- b) Prohibits the use of consumer fireworks by anyone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- c) Fireworks may not be used on public, school, or private property of another person unless express permission is obtained to use the fireworks on that property.

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3. Question: How long is the consumer fireworks certificate valid for?

Answer: A consumer fireworks certificate is valid from the date of issuance through April 30th of the following year. A retailer must apply annually and meet all statutory requirements. Guidelines for application process can be found at: [Michigan consumer fireworks certificate and low impact registry application and guidelines](#).

4. Question: What is a fireworks safety fee and how is it collected?

Answer: Per PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.460](#) the fireworks safety fee is a 6% safety fee collected by the retailer at the time of sales in addition to the 6% sales tax on both consumer and low-impact fireworks. Fire safety fees must be paid to the Bureau of Fire Services and sales tax must be paid to the Department of Treasury.

- a) [Fireworks safety fees](#) are due no later than 20 days after the end of every preceding month. Payments for [fireworks safety fees](#) can be submitted online or by mail.
- b) If you are not selling fireworks every month you are still **required** to submit a fireworks safety fee monthly report that indicates zero sales.
- c) Applications will be denied if all sales reports from the previous year have not been submitted. This requirement starts during the month of issuance of the certificate and continues until April 30 of the following year or until a [Fireworks Written Notice of Cancellation Request, BFS-408](#) is submitted.
- d) A [Fireworks Written Notice of Cancellation Request, BFS-408](#) may be submitted. After the cancellation request is submitted, safety fee reporting is no longer required beginning the following month. **Note:** *Reversal of the cancellation is not permitted*; a new application must be made if you want to sell at the same location again.

5. Question: What if I only want to sell novelty fireworks like sparklers, snakes, snaps and poppers?

Answer: PA 256 of 2011 doesn't apply to novelties. Novelty fireworks may be sold without being registered or obtaining a certificate.

6. Question: What if I only want to sell low impact fireworks like sparkling wheel devices and ground sparkling devices?

Answer: Per PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.456](#), the act requires that any retailer selling low-impact fireworks in the State of Michigan:

- a) [Register online](#) each calendar year not less than ten days before the low-impact fireworks are sold.
- b) The low impact retailer must collect the 6% fireworks safety fee and remit those fees to the Bureau of Fire Services 20 days after the end of each month.

- c) If you are not selling low impact fireworks every month you are still **required** to submit a fireworks safety fee monthly report that indicates zero sales.
- d) This requirement is valid starting during the month of registry and ending on December 31 of the same year.
- e) In order to sell low impact fireworks the following year, the retailer must re-register.

7. Question: I have a display fireworks business; do I have to apply for a fireworks certificate with the Bureau of Fire Services?

Answer: No. All permits issued for the discharge of display fireworks are obtained from the local unit of government, jurisdiction or municipality where the fireworks are being displayed. Fees, if any, charged for these permits are retained by that local jurisdiction.

8. Question: Where does the city, township or village obtain display fireworks permit forms?

Answer: Each year the supervisor or clerk from the local unit of government, jurisdiction or municipality will have to contact the Bureau of Fire Services at fireworks@michigan.gov to request the forms. These forms will **not** be distributed to any individual other than a supervisor or clerk from a local unit of government, jurisdiction or municipality.

9. Question: What do I need to do if I want a display permit for my township?

Answer: You must contact your local unit of government, jurisdiction or municipality and ask for the fireworks display permit form. If local unit of government, jurisdiction or municipality does not have the form, that office must contact the Bureau of Fire Services at fireworks@michigan.gov to request copies of the forms.

10. Question: Where can I find more detailed information about fireworks products and safety?

Answer: Please visit the following websites:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/info/fireworks/recalls.html>
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/APA_STAND_87-01_378370_7.pdf?20141121095249

11. Question: Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Answer:

- a) You may refer to the Bureau of Fire Services website at www.michigan.gov/bfs for information related to fireworks.

- b) You may call the Bureau of Fire Services at 517-241-8847 or 517-373-7441 or by facsimile at 517-332-1427.
- c) You may email fireworks@michigan.gov. **Note:** Email is the preferred method of contact during the fireworks season (April – September) due to the high demand on staff. Emails will be responded to promptly within one business day.

12. Question: How can I find out who has a certificate?

Answer: There are online search tools provided on our website which will allow you to search for [consumer fireworks certificates](#) and [low impact fireworks registration](#).